

license, etc., which any individual physician may make. The result is a higher degree of accuracy than has ever been secured in a similar work. It should receive the hearty support of every physician in order that the work may be improved from year to year, become more and more accurate in the matter of addresses, and thus become more useful to everyone. It is a subject for congratulation that the medical profession has come into its own in this one particular, and that it is no longer at the mercy of the whim or the avarice of a commercial publisher. Give the American Medical Directory your hearty support.

The many friends of Dr. Rupert Blue will be glad to know that he has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine of London in recognition of his remarkable work in fighting plague in San Francisco. This is one of the highest tributes which could be paid him and its bestowal reflects great credit not only on Dr. Rupert Blue, but on the service which he represents as well. In the past year there has not been a case of rat plague in San Francisco but the infection among ground squirrels in Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties has assumed such vast proportions that its eradication will probably be a labor of years. Thus far about 60,000 squirrels have been examined at the Federal Laboratory and over 300 have been found to be positive for plague. Just how far-reaching this epizootic will prove to be is difficult to say. Dr. George W. McCoy, who is in charge of suppressive measures during Dr. Blue's absence abroad, and Dr. W. C. Rucker, in command of the field work, are endeavoring to create a plague free zone around Oakland and Berkeley, with the object of preventing the infection from ground squirrels of the rats and other rodents of these cities. That such a danger exists is evidenced by the discovery of a plague infected woodrat in Alameda county.

During the past year three human cases of plague were reported, all being undoubtedly of ground squirrel origin. It is significant that no question has been raised as to the existence of plague among ground squirrels; the great educational campaign has certainly borne fruit for a few years ago such a diagnosis would have been assailed on every conceivable ground.

The Public Health Commission of the State Society is, as all of our members know, one of the most active bodies or committees connected with the Society. Since its very inception this commission has done a good deal of the very best, high grade work. It is now at work upon a plan to consolidate into one body a number of various committees whose work is more or less along the lines of conservation of the public health. At the coming meeting of the State Society, at Sacramento this April, the Com-

mission will report upon this and its report should be of great interest. There are in the state a number of societies, as the Tuberculosis Society, the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Diseases, the Public Health Officers' Association, etc., all doing work that directly relates to public health matters. If these could be brought together on Monday, April 18th, 1910 (the day before the meeting of the State Society) at Sacramento, doubtless it would be found that they had many things in common and some sort of consolidation could be effected. All of these various movements are in the right direction and they are all doing good; but if some energy could be saved and the work of all increased by consolidation, it would assuredly seem to be a good thing. Dr. F. C. E. Mattison, Chairman of the Commission, is now trying to arrange for a meeting at the time mentioned and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance of those interested in the various societies and committees whose work is along public health lines. If you are in any way connected with any of these societies, be sure and attend the general meeting at Sacramento on Monday, April 18th; it will be well worth your while.

At the last session of the American Medical Association, a resolution was introduced and passed, requesting all County Medical Societies to hold at least one open or public meeting each year. Such meetings will be of the very greatest benefit; the people generally do not know what medical societies are trying to do; they do not understand our present day efforts toward the betterment of public health matters; they are at sea as to the real reason for proper medical laws and for the compulsory vaccination of children. Equally are they in the dark as to the preventableness and curability of tuberculosis, and in a hundred ways they need enlightenment on matters medical, sanitary and hygienic. Therefore the holding of open or public meetings at least once a year, or oftener if possible, is strongly recommended to all County Medical Societies. Some of the County Medical Societies in California have been holding such meetings from time to time, and they have been found to be of great interest to layman and physician alike. A very profitable meeting could be held with the school board and the school teachers of the community, at which meeting school hygiene and the examination of school children could be discussed with much benefit to all concerned. The "backward child" from the standpoint of the school teacher, and then from the standpoint of the physician who can interpret much of this backwardness to physical defects and explain them and the necessity for their removal, would, in itself, make a profitable evening's program. Our State Society has urged this line of activity upon County Medical Societies for some years and it is therefore a matter of no small satisfaction to see that the importance of the work is not ignored by the American Medical Association. Do not let the present year end without having at least one such meeting in your county.